

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification, at page 1, lines 20-26, as follows:

According to the present invention there is provided a rubber access mat which includes a rubber slab having opposed side edges defining a width and opposed end edges defining a length. A rigidifying grid of reinforcing wire is embedded within the rubber slab. The grid consists of a plurality of parallel spaced wires extending continuously between the opposed side edges for most of the width of the rubber slab and a plurality of parallel spaced wires extending continuously between the opposed end edges for most of the length of the rubber slab. The reinforcing wire is not less than number ten gauge wire.

Please amend the specification, at page 2, lines 24-31, as follows:

Referring to FIG. 1, there is shown rubber access mat 10, including a rubber slab 12 made from recycled vehicular tires, having opposed side edges 14 defining a width and opposed end edges 16 defining a length. A rigidifying grid 18 of reinforcing wire 20 is embedded within rubber slab 12 and consists of a plurality of parallel spaced wires 20. Wires 20 extend continuously between opposed side edges 14 for most of the width of rubber slab 12 and between opposed end edges 16 for most of the length of rubber slab 12, parallel to each other in each direction. Reinforcing wire 20 is not less than number ten gauge wire, and is made of a metal with adequate strength, such as steel.